MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 JUNE 1981

Iran

At its session on 17 June the Majlis approved a draft bill for the discussion of the political competence of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Tehran radio reported. It stipulates that the Majlis can vote to rule the president incompetent only if at least a third of the deputies give written backing for such a vote. The draft also allocates 5 hours debating time to each side and allows the president to participate in the debate. He and his supporters in the Majlis will be able to divide their allotted time as they wish, although no supporter or opponent should speak for more than half an hour. The vote on the bill will be by open ballot, and it must be approved by two-thirds of the deputies. The radio reported that during the session, a large crowd gathered outside the Majlis building shouting for the dismissal of Bani-Sadr. It also broadcast a statement by the Council of Guardians announcing that a majority of the council have confirmed the legality of the draft bill. AFP reported that Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti told a press conference that if Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni dismisses Bani-Sadr, the nation must elect a new president within 50 days. Tehran radio reported that Beheshti told the reporters that Bani-Sadr will not be arrested. In other remarks at his press conference, Beheshti called on members of the fundamentalist Hezbollahi to exercise more self-control in their activities on the streets, asserting that they have staged some incidents "contrary to Islamic law." Beheshti urged them to refrain from chanting un-Islamic slogans and to be vigilant.

Lebanese Crisis

Jerusalem radio reported that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib arrived in Israel from Damascus and met with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 18 June. According to KUNA, the Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS has accused Habib of deliberately moving in a vicious circle in order to give Israel time to carry out its aggressive schemes. The paper described Habib's recent shuttle tours as "just window dressing" meant to give the impression that Israel is going to direct blows at Lebanon or Syria, rather than at Iraq. Voice of Lebanon radio said sniper fire and sporadic shelling continued in Beirut and Zahlah. Beirut radio reported that an Israeli-backed Christian militia unit entered the southern township of Al-Qantarah and clashed with Lebanese army units there.

Reagan Press Conference

INA quoted an official Iraqi spokesman as saying that President Ronald Reagan's remarks at his 16 June Washington press conference were "completely unobjective" and based on false assumptions. The spokesman said Reagan ignored the fact that Israel has nuclear weapons and has refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and he charged that the President repeated lies concerning Iraqi intentions that even Israel has stopped repeating since they are baseless. According to a Cairo radio commentator, Reagan affirmed that Israel's destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor is additional proof that the time has come for real peace to prevail and for a comprehensive settlement of all the problems in the Middle East. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio broadcast a commentary asserting that Reagan apparently undertook the role of devil's advocate, enthusiastically defending the Israeli stand. It claimed that the United States and Israel can be confronted, fought and beaten and said the confrontation should begin with the oil weapon. A JANA political commentator said Reagan's statement proves that the United States will not condemn any Israeli action, regardless of its consequences. Reagan's statement showed, he continued, that the raid was the result of the U.S. and Israeli desire to destroy the capabilities of the Arabs and hinder their development.

PLO

The Voice of Palestine reported that the PLO permanent observer at the United Nations, Zuhdi at-Tarazi, has accused the United States of collaborating with Israel in its recent attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. In a speech to the Security Council, At-Tarazi claimed that U.S. intelligence could not have been unaware of Israeli preparations for the air raid. INA reported that at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with President Saddam Husayn were positive and useful. He also said the two sides agreed to continue contacts aimed at adopting a unified and concerted Arab stand to confront Israel and bypass all peripheral issues.

Iraqi-Soviet Talks

INA reported that the official talks between an Iraqi delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and a Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Talyzin began in Moscow on 17 June.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that Iranian Phantom jets destroyed an Iraqi base in Halabeheh on 17 June and confirmed that the Iraqis bombed the residential areas of Ramhormoz on the night of 17 June. According to an armed forces communique, carried by the radio, an Iraqi boat in the Al-Faw estuary was destroyed on 15 June, and Iranian units gained control of the Dehlaviyeh region following exchanges of fire on 16-17 June. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by INA, reported minor Iranian losses in the Nowsud, Susangerd and Abadan regions.

PDRY-Omani Relations

According to Aden radio, the PDRY Foreign Ministry sent a protest note to the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab League concerning Omani aggression against PDRY territory from 13 to 15 June. The note asked the Permanent Secretariat to intervene to effect the release of three PDRY soldiers detained by the Omanis.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL GRANTS INTERVIEW TO CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY

LD171646 Prague CTK in English 1735 GMT 16 Jun 81

[By Peter Farankl]

[Text] Kabul, 16 Jun (CTK)--"We shall exert every effort to safeguard peace and security and to speed up the solution of problems in the area of Afghanistan, problems which we have not caused and which have ensued from the reactionary, imperialist and hegemonist interference in our internal affairs, from aggression against our vital national interests." This has been emphasized by Afghan leader Babrak Karmal in an interview he granted to CETEKA in connection with his forthcoming official friendly visit to Czechoslovakia.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan, stressed that no opportunity has been wasted in the search for ways of peaceful settlement of relations with Pakistan and Iran.

"I believe that the state of war, tension and unrest in the area only plays into the hands of world imperialism and armament monopolies. We have included our peace initiative in many statements at various forums of various levels. We hoped to receive a positive reply from Pakistan and Iran...we have not received it so far," Babrak Karmal said.

"It is our desire that the ruling circles of the two countries involved take a realistic and responsible approach to our peace proposals to make possible an easing of tension in southwest Asia," the Afghan leader said and voiced willingness to talk to all sides involved also about the departure of Soviet troops invited to Afghanistan to help repel foreign aggression.

"First of all, however, we demand adequate international guarantees that the foreign aggression will be halted and never recur."

Babrak Karmal emphasized that "world imperialism, led by the United States, and Chinese hegemonists together with anti-Afghan reaction create artificial obstacles on the road to a peaceful solution of the problems. They are particularly worried by the high appreciation of the peace initiatives of Afghanistan by all peace-loving forces around the globe."

Explaining the economic situation in Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal said that despite the tragic inheritance of economic instability and chaos from the Hafizollah Amin regime, the new leadership succeeded in one and a half years from the start of the new stage of the April Revolution in restoring the management of economy and implementing first short-term plans of social and economic development.

First important steps have been made on the road of improving the living standard of the working people. For the first time in the last ten years, Afghanistan had an even balance of payments and stable prices in the country in the last fiscal year.

Many successes were attained last year in improving the living conditions of workers and ensuring further development of the country despite the attempts of counterrevolutionary bands, supported by imperialist powers and sent to Afghanistan from abroad, to cause disruption and impede the program of the country's economic and social elevation. Babrak Karmal noted that the membership of the People's Democratic Party, again a firm vanguard of the country's working people, is constantly expanding and the party's influence in the broad masses is steadily increasing. He said that approximately thirty percent of the party's members are workers.

The Afghan leader recalled that after the victory of the national democratic revolution in Afghanistan various counterrevolutionary forces at home and abroad, working in collusion with spy services of imperialist powers, attempted to destroy the country's revolutionary movement from the inside. The enemies of the revolution wanted to artificially cause conditions for a split in the party and thus lead the revolution astray. The reactionary regime was then to be returned to power. However, the party, remembering the bitter experiences of the recent years, has taken valuable lessons from them, which now help strengthen its ranks, Babrak Karmal stressed.

Speaking on the role of the newly established National Patriotic Front, he stated it will strengthen and cement the broad social base of the April Revolution, associating besides several dozen political and social organizations also representatives of different classes and sections, nationalities and tribes living in Afghanistan. The masses of millions of the Afghan people will be able to take an important part through it in the country's political and social life.

He described the establishment of a broad national front as a supreme expression of the assertion of democracy in Afghanistan in the current stage of revolutionary transformations.

On Afghanistan's cooperation with Czechoslovakia, Babrak Karmal said that especially in the past three years it has developed new and wider forms in the sphere of economy as well as in culture, science and technology.

Czechoslovakia belongs to Afghanistan's biggest partners in foreign trade, immediately after the Soviet Union, Babrak Karmal said and stressed that the Afghan people are very grateful for Czechoslovakia's unselfish aid in the realization of a number of economic projects which are of extraordinary significance for the strengthening of the basic pillars of the Afghan economy.

Asked about the strongest impression from his previous stay in Czechoslovakia, Babrak Karmal pointed to the fraternity, equality and wide cooperation between two nations--Czechs and Slovaks--in one country and stressed that this example of a solution of the question of nationalities greatly impressed him.

The Afghan representative highly appreciated Czechoslovakia's internationalist aid to Afghanistan, and stressed its role in the world peace movement, its efforts for preserving peace in the world and strengthening the international communist and workers movement and the national liberation movement.

Babrak Karmal recalled in the interview many friendships he and his family established during their earlier long-time stay in Czechoslovakia, stressing that the country became his second homeland. We expressed the conviction that his forthcoming visit will contribute to the further development of cooperation between the two countries.

BORDER TREATY SIGNED WITH USSR IN KABUL 16 JUN

LD171638 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] A treaty on the demarcation of the borders between the DRA and the USSR along the western shore of Lake Zorkul to Pik Povalo-Shveykovskogo was concluded in Kabul on 16 June. The treaty legally affirms the already existing and hitherto protected boundry between Afghanistan and the USSR in that area. Thus, it affirms the principle of the inviolability of borders between the DRA and the USSR. The treaty was signed on the Afghan side by Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA minister of foreign affairs, and on the Soviet side by F. Tabeyev, the Soviet ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR in Kabul.

SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENTIAL E ECTION ANNOUNCED

BK171646 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] The election schedule for the coming presidential poll has been announced. According to the program, nomination papers should be filed by 10 August and the review will take place the following day. The last date for the withdrawal of nomination papers will be 17 August and polling will take place on 21 September.

Announcing the details of the program over radio and television this evening, Chief Election Commissioner Justice A.K.M. Nural Islam said the election would be held on the basis of universal adult franchise and would take the form of a secret ballot, as stipulated under the presidential election ordinance. Secrecy, he said, is a necessary precondition for a free, fair and impartial election.

He said the secretary of the election commission was being appointed as the returning officer and the subdivisional officers of the country as assistant returning officers. Nomination papers should be filed with the returning officers.

Any person qualified under the law for the office of president can file nomination papers. However, anyone who is below 35 years of age, or who is not qualified for election to parliament or who has been removed from the office of president or vice president under the constitution will not be eligible for the presidency.

The chief election commissioner said that the election commission was determined to hold the presidential election freely, fairly and impartially. Measures have already been taken to ensure this. He said: We have to hold this election within a limited period. The task is great, even gigantic. He sought the fullest help and cooperation from all for the success of this important duty. He particularly made a fervent appeal to the political parties to actively cooperate in implementing this arduous and vital work. He expressed his confidence that the mass media--radio, television, newspapers and news agencies--would stretch their hands of cooperation as they had done in the past.

The chief election commissioner sounded a note of warning to those indulging in corrupt practices. He said every citizen had a vital responsibility to see that the election was held freely, fairly and impartially.

Recalling the glorious tradition set by the people in excercising their right of franchise in the last presidential election, the chief election commissioner hoped that the nation would display the same spirit in the coming election as well.

OPPOSITION ASKED NOT TO REOPEN STATE SYSTEM ISSUE

BK171327 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] Leader of the house and Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman has appealed to the opposition to desist from reopening the question of the system of government at this critical period of national life. He was responding to the statements made in the house this morning by leaders of the opposition Assaduzaman Khan and Shajahan Siraj of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, who regretted that the opposition was not consulted before fixing the date of the presidential election. Shah Aziz said if the opposition so desired they can make the system of government an issue again in the general election scheduled to be held in 1983. He said in the last presidential election, the people had given a clear mandate in favor of the presidential form of government. If they vote for the parliamentary form in the next general election, there will be no bar in carrying out the mandate. Both the systems, he said, are democratic. Shah Azizur Rahman, however, assured the house that he would advise the acting president to consult the opposition on the ways to conduct the presidential election in September [word indistinct].

NARASIMHA RAO RETURNS FROM BHUTAN VISIT 18 JUN

BK181006 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jun 81

[Text] India has assured Bhutan [of] all the necessary assistance to implement that country's ambitious fifth plan, which began this year. At the end of his 3-day visit to Bhutan, External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao said that India has been happy to render such cooperation as requested by the Bhutan Government. This will be our approach in the future also, he added. Narasimha Rao was addressing the Bhutan-India Friendship Association in Thimbu this morning before leaving for New Delhi. He returned to the capital a short while ago.

All-India Radio special correspondent Anant Charlu, who covered the visit, says the Bhutan Government was extremely satisfied with the talks Rao had with King Jigme Singye Wangchuk and others. [Delhi Domestic Service in English at 1530 GMT on 17 June says that the talks "lasted for about 90 minutes," dealt with bilateral relations and "matters of regional interest," and quotes correspondent Charlu as saying the talks were held "in a cordial atmosphere. The king is understood to have shown keen interest in India's assessment of the international situation, particularly the problems facing the countries in the region."

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 0240 GMT on 18 June adds: "India and Bhutan have agreed in principle to strengthen the existing bilateral and cultural relations between the two countries. There will be a great exchange of scholars and artists. This is one of the subjects that figured during the talks between the Bhutan king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, and External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in Thimbu yesterday. They also discussed the international situation, with particular reference to South Asia. The cooperation among the countries of the region also figured in the talks. After the talks, Mr. Rao told newsmen that the meeting was very cordial and friendly.

["The All-India Radio special correspondent, Anant Charlu, reporting from Thimbu, says that no aides were present during most of the 90-minute-long talks between the king and Narasimha Rao. It is understood that Mr. Rao briefed the king about his recent visit to Pakistan. The forthcoming visit of the Chinese foreign minister to India also came up. Mr. Rao is understood to have pointed out China has been speaking very favorably on regional cooperation."]

The 26-year-old king set aside protocol and came to (Juang Chuling) at the royal guesthouse to bid farewell to the Indian foreign minister. In another unusual gesture, the king and the members of the royal family attended the dinner given by the Indian ambassador at his residence last night. Our correspondent says Rao's visit has created a new sense of closeness between the two countries.

In his speech this morning, the foreign minister also referred to the Indo-Bhutan economic cooperation. Rao appreciated the desire of Bhutan to set up projects which would be of benefit to India. He mentioned the (Pondem) cement project, which is supplying cement to Assam and West Bengal. The (Tuka) hydroelectric project, now under construction in Bhutan, will supply power to India in a few years. India will help Bhutan in setting up a broadcasting station and a microwave link.

Rao also indicated the possibilities of setting up a joint institute for research in Mahayana Buddhism.

BEHESHTI QUESTIONED ON BANI-SADR'S LEGAL POSITION

LD171858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] Beheshti, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, today took part in a press conference and answered reporters' questions. He announced that, according to the latest information, there is no question of the arrest of Bani-Sadr. He talked to our reporter about the judicial prosecution of Bani-Sadr after the three-man mediation committee had deemed him to be an offender.

[Begin Beheshti recording] Naturally, judicial issues must be implemented and judicial prosecution must continue. It is the duty of the Tehran prosecutor to continue working on the 5 February file [relating to the Tehran University incident]. There is also talk of an offense he committed in refusing to implement his duties in accordance with the Constitution. This must also, according to the law, be investigated in the country's Supreme Court. The important point is that our nation should deal with these issues with its highly praised Islamic morality, dignity and ability, the dignity of a revolutionary nation which believes in God and Islam.

Bani-Sadr put himself in this situation because he could not follow the decisive demand of our nation about the establishment of an Islamic system, in accordance with the law and the Constitution. As that nation is aware, the entire nation wanted him to completely follow the pure Islam and the Constitution and to properly arrange his legal relations with the Majlis, the judicial system and the Cabinet. Well, he did not succeed in doing so, or else he did not want to do so. The Majlis will announce its view on this matter and then it is up to the imam to make the final decision; it is up to the leader. The nation, through its understanding and through the information it has gained, has also announced its verdict and the nation continues to stress this verdict.

But occasionally, during the glorious marches, rallies and demonstrations of our heroic Muslim and revolutionary nation, some incidents take place here and there, and these incidents are attributed to the Hezbollahi. These incidents are contrary to Islamic law. It is strongly recommended that our heroic youth, our heroic nation and our committed and revolutionary brothers and sisters be vigilant so that no speech or action can be seen to contradict Islamic law and Islamic morality. Even when they chant slogans, when they want to announce their own opinion about Bani-Sadr, they should try to make sure that they use slogans which are not contrary to Islamic morality and law. And if, here and there, some people use words and phrases which are not in line with Islamic morality and law, then you should stop them and ask whether they are chanting the slogans because they are excited or because they are simple people, in which case you should enlighten them. But if they are enemies who have penetrated the ranks of friends and are doing this intentionally to sully the pure face of your Islamic uprising and your Islamic revolution, then you should certainly stand against them and expel them from your ranks.

The heroic nation is our hope; through all these fluctuations and in all these difficulties--which every revolution in the world has to face and which the prophet of Islam also had to face in his pure revolution--we hope that the nation will be able to maintain its dignity, steadfastness, revolutionary zeal and morality; and we hope that it will not permit the shining face of our Islamic revolution to be harmed by these sort of things. And I, as a brother of yours, appeal to you all, fraternally, to prevent any such harm against your own faces, your demonstrations, your epic creations and your glorious revolution, through full vigilance. The entire nation also expects its self-sacrificing combatants, the armed forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the pride-inspiring air force, the epic-creating Airborne Division, our powerful navy, our struggling gendarmerie and other warriors to fight decisively against the enemy on the battlefronts. In these days, especially, they must do their best to weaken the enemy more than ever before.

I beseech Almighty God to grant success to all these self-sacrificing warriors and to our heroic nation. And I hope that all of us remain on the straight and pure path of Islam. Glory to you all. [end recording]

DRAFT BILL ON BANI-SADR 'INCOMPETENCE' PRESENTED

LD171154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Bureau, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session this morning. The session began with a recitation from the Koran and was chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A large group of our compatriots were present as spectators.

The draft legislative code for appraising the draft [as heard] concerning the president's political incompetence was put forward during the session. After speeches by a number of deputies, both for and against, and following approval of the first reading and of two articles of the said draft, its debate was postponed until the next session.

According to this report, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, made a short speech. He said: It is necessary to express our gratitude to our Muslim combatants who achieved one of the most outstanding wartime victories and who have captured the sensitive Dehlaviyeh sector, which is a [word indistinct] for the ultimate battlefront, and ousted the enemy; the blessings of our Muslim people go with these self-sacrificing combatants.

Majlis Approves Draft

LD171750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] Following a 1-hour break after the morning session, the Islamic Consultative Assembly resumed its deliberations at 1320, chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Debate continued on the articles of the draft bill dealing with the president's incompetence. After studying the deputies' suggestions, it was approved. According to Central News Bureau report, this draft bill contains the following articles:

Article 1: The demand for a vote on the president's political incompetence can be raised in the Majlis only when it has been signed by at least 1/3 of the deputies.

Article 2: This demand must be submitted in writing to the Majlis speaker in an open session, be read out in the first session and be brought to the public's attention through the mass media.

Article 3: The time alloted for the debate will not exceed 5 hours for each side, with the sides alternating their presentations.

Guardians Approve Draft

LD171708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Letter from the Council of Guardians to the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly concerning the legality of the Majlis bill on the political competence of President Bani-Sadr]

[Text] Honorable Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly: The resolution concerning the political incompetence of the president, which was approved by the Majlis deputies at their 17 June session in the presence of the Council of Guardians, was reviewed at an urgent council session.

In the opinion of the majority of the council members, this bill does not contradict either the shariah regulations or the constitution.

[Signed] The secretary of the Council of Guardians, Lotfollah Safi

KHOMEYNI GRANTS AMNESTY TO 485 PRISONERS

LD171030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Statement issued by Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor General 'Ali Qoddusi--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the occasion of the auspicious birthday of (?the great jurisconsult) and the hope of the world's oppressed, a list of 485 people convicted in Islamic Revolution Courts who are covered by the amnesty granted by the great leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow extend, will be announced. It is hereby pointed out that:

1. Most of those to be freed committed minor offenses or crimes in connection with narcotics.

2. The sentences of those covered by the amnesty are suspended, but if they commit the same crimes as those for which they were first convicted, in addition to being punished for their repeat offenses, their suspended sentences will come back into effect.

3. Since some of the provincial towns have not sent in lists of convicts who might be covered by the amnesty, no action has yet been taken regarding them.

4. In addition to these persons, a number of other convicts are covered by the amnesty. Their names will be sent to the relevant towns in due course.

5. This statement is an order to all Islamic Revolution Courts and should be carried out.

[Signed] Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor General 'Ali Qoddusi

NURBAKHSH LEAVES FOR ECUADOR OPEC MEETING

GF171341 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] Mohsen Nurbakhsh, Iranian Central Bank governor, left for Ecuador this morning. He is leading a delegation that includes officials from the Petroleum and Economy and Finance Ministries. They will participate in the OPEC Fund meeting, due to take place on 20 June. The delegations will discuss the OPEC Fund's status and aid to developing countries.

AIR FORCE DESTROYS ENEMY BASE IN HALABCHEH

LD171911 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text Phantoms of the Iranian Air Force destroyed an enemy base in Halabcheh this morning. According to a PARS report because of the long distance between this region and the Iranian frontlines, Iranian forces could not see the degree of damage and losses inflicted on the enemy. Nevertheless, despite the distance, flames and smoke were visible.

During the past 48 hours, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Javanrud cleansed the regions of Kolakeh, 'Alajiyeh, (?Darveleh), Sar Darreh, Pirpir-E Leh and Givar of the forces of blasphemy and armed assailants.

Another report from Javanrud indicates that one landmine, which had been planted by the enemy on the road between Galicheh and Sartan, was discovered and defused by a revolution guard and was replanted against enemy forces. It blew up one enemy vehicle carrying personnel and eight Saddamists were killed.

JOINT STAFF REPORTS ON SITUATION AT FRONTS

LD172022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Communique 540 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While offering most worthy greetings and congratulations on the glorious occasion of the auspicious birthday of his holiness the mahdi, to Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to the beloved Muslim people, all the beloved combatants on the fronts of battle between truth and falsehood, who are his holiness' genuine followers, and to all the world's Muslims, reports on parts of the operations carried out by the devotees of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation at the battlefronts are announced as follows:

Exchange of fire continued yesterday on the Marivan fronts, and several enemy observation trenches, foxholes and slit trenches were destroyed in Panjwin in Iraq, and an Iraqi ammunition dump in the vicinity of Diyarah was set on fire. In Khormal, a motorized column consisting of 20 vehicles came under the intense fire of the artillery of the combatants of the ground forces and was routed. In the Marivan operations, a total of about 50 or 60 of the Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

In the exchange of fire on the Shur-e Shirin front, the combatants of the armed forces managed to set ablaze and destroy two enemy tanks, one ammunition dump and one vehicle.

On 15 June, as a result of the fire of the gendarmerie heroes, one Iraqi boat was hit in the Al-Faw estuary and destroyed; its crew was killed. In the exchange of fire in Khuninshahr, the enemy positions in the occupied zone came under our forces' fire and losses were inflicted; about 10 enemy personnel were killed.

On the western Dezful front, exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued, with the combatants of the ground forces enjoying fire superiority; the enemy artillery fire was silenced and two ammunition dumps, one vehicle and one tank were set on fire and some of the enemy forces were killed or wounded.

On the Ahvaz fronts, the brave and strong combatants of the ground forces strongly returned the enemy's artillery and heavy-weapon fire and silenced the fire of Saddam's forces, inflicting considerable losses and casualties on them.

Yesterday and this morning severe exchanges of fire continued between the armed combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saddam's forces on the Dehlaviyeh front; our self-sacrificing forces enjoyed fire superiority; they courageously cleared the enemy-occupied regions and now have complete control over the region.

On the Abadan-Khuninshahr front, exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued and the armed forces based in those regions crushed the enemy positions and set fire to and destroyed 3 ammunition dumps, 3 observations posts, a 75-mm gun and more than 15 light and heavy enemy weapons.

On the Darkhovin, Abadan and Mared fronts, as a result of the artillery fire of the combatants of the ground forces, a 50-mm heavy machinegun and an antiaircraft gun of the enemy were destroyed with their crews.

Yesterday parts of Abadan came under artillery and long-range enemy fire and losses and casualties were inflicted.

During the fighting and operations carried out on 15 June, 18 of the personnel of the ground forces, who were ready to give their lives, and two devotees of the gendarmerie achieved the honor of martyrdom.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

FOREIGN MINISTRY PRAISES LEBANESE MARTYR

GF171858 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Iranian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on the martyrdom of 'Ali 'Abbas, a Lebanese citizen. He was martyred in Dehlaviyah, to the west of Susangerd, while fighting at the side of his Iranian brothers against the Saddamist forces.

After extending congratulations to the citizens of Lebanon and the Muslim nation on the martyrdom of this struggling brother, the Foreign Ministry said the martyrdom of this struggler--who died fighting at the side of his brothers--proved that the Saddamist claims were false. It also proves to the Muslim nation that this battle is between right and wrong and that it will continue until the aggressive forces have been expelled from Iran.

WESTERN AZARBAYJAN GOVERNOR GENERAL APPOINTED

GF171315 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] Interior Minister Mahdavi-Kani has appointed Asghar Ebrahimi governor general of Western Azarbayjan. He has assumed his duties.

REVOLUTION GUARDS SEIZE 16.94 MILLION RIALS

GF161550 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] Through the efforts of the ('Asalyah) revolution guards, 16.94 million rials in 5,000- and 10,000-rial notes have been seized from counterrevolutionaries in Bandar-e (Nakhl-e Tavil). The notes were handed over to the Bushehr Islamic Revolution Court. The cash was hidden in bales of hay to be taken out of the country. Thanks to the alertness of the ('Asalyah) revolution guards, the cash was discovered and seized.

KURDISH RADIO REPORTS GENDARMES, GUARDS CLASH

TA121529 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran 1315 GMT 12 Jun 81

[Text] According to a report by the correspondent of the Voice of Iranian Kordestan from Takab, as a result of differences between the gendarmes and the guards stationed at [name indistinct] base near Takab, the two sides started firing on each other and, as a result of this severe clash, approximately 22 persons from both sides were killed or injured, including the commanding officer of the base.

The alleged reason for the clash was that the guards wanted the gendarmes to shell the Kurdish-inhabited villages of the area with mortar and artillery fire. However, the gendarmes, who have become weary of the fratricidal war and who [words indistinct], refused to carry out this criminal act, which led to an armed clash.

VOICE OF AL-QADISIYAH: 'STRUGGLERS' FOIL GUARDS

GF121055 (Clandestine) Ahvaz Voice of Al-Qadisiyah in Arabic 0557 GMT 12 Jun 81

[Excerpt] At 0400 last week [as heard] a group of Khomeyni guards in Hamadan, in Khuzestan Province, tried to arrest a number of strugglers from military units of the armed groups struggling against the transgressor Khomeyni. The alertness of the strugglers and the accuracy of their revolutionary planning foiled the enemy's plot. The liberal strugglers managed to escape arrest by the killers and butchers. The guards returned to base in hopeless frustration.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN COMMENTS ON BANI-SADR'S FATE

NC171714 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Compatriots: It will make no difference to Iranian patriots if Bani-Sadr is removed from the presidency, if his rights and official titles are increased or decreased, if he is a president or not. Being or not being is important only when being is effective.

There was a time when Bani-Sadr was commander in chief and thought that he led the war activities on the western front. As he himself confessed in his typed statement of protest last Saturday, the commander in chief, who also enjoys the country's highest political position, who should decide when to attack, when to retreat, when to order the soldiers to fire, when to establish a cease-fire, how long to continue the war and when to accept the peace proposal, and who is kept informed of the situation on all the fronts and knows the contents of the proposals tendered by the nonaligned good-will mission, reached the conclusion that a cease-fire should be established and the good-will mission's proposals be accepted. They tell him to stop meddling in affairs that are none of his business. What does the being or not being of this military and political figure mean? What difference does it make if he exists or doesn't?

They close down the university. As president of the country, Bani-Sadr protests. The university is still closed. They close down the newspapers. Bani-Sadr declares that this is an incorrect thing to do. The newspapers remain closed down. They torture innocent people in prisons in the most abominable way. Bani-Sadr publishes documents on the tortures. A mission is formed to study the truth behind Bani-Sadr's claims and the conclusion is reached that no one has been tortured in all of Iran and that the people are burning their own hands with cigarettes in order to disgrace the regime. The torturers continue their duties. They arrest Bani-Sadr's adviser. He protests. They arrest eight more of his close associates.

The president says: Release the American hostages. They tell him: Stop colluding. When they want to release the hostages, the president says: Retrieve Iran's assets from the United States. They pay $11 billion to the United States as (?compensation) to the hostages, and the president is told not to haggle.

There are thousands of such examples, but the ones we have mentioned are enough to prove our point. Anyway, what difference does it make now? The president's existence was unimportant and, naturally, his nonexistence will also be unimportant. Bani-Sadr's stupidity--or, if we put it more mildly, his mistake--was that he thought that in a dictatorship marches, demonstrations and crowds that have taken to the streets to shout slogans can be taken as a manifestation of credibility and popularity.

Bani-Sadr had not realized that only in a democratic regime--in a government for the people and by the people, with its priority being the national determination--can any demonstration, march, gathering, meeting, slogan and "long live" and "down with" speak of the acceptance or rejection of a (?figure, thought) and ideology. In dictatorship and despotism one needs only a day to start demonstrations for or against a person, thought or ideology.

On Monday Bani-Sadr probably heard the shouts of the people who had set off from Imam Khomeyni Square--the square which he himself named. We were neither next to him nor in his hiding place. But we can guess what he felt at that moment and in the commotion of men with foaming mouths and women sweating under their chadors (?tearing his name to pieces). Bani-Sadr closed his eyes and ears. He did exactly the same thing that Rohm, the leader of the Nazi Party and Hitler's close associate, did 45 years ago. Hearing the voices of people who had gathered outside his house, Rohm went to the balcony thinking that his devoted brownshirts had gathered outside and were constantly calling his name. But he realized that the brownshirts were blackshirts instead and were shouting "Death to Rohm." Hitler's dictatorship, in the establishment of which Rohm had showed great devotion, had now come after him. Rohm returned to his room and a moment later the sound of a bullet ended his ugly life.

Bani-Sadr does not even have the courage to do this.

NVOI: INTERNAL CONFLICT THREATENING REPUBLIC

TA142004 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 14 June carried a commentary, entitled "The Necessity of a Decisive and Revolutionary Step Against the Followers of Brzezinski's Line," which said:

Lately, the compromising, road-roller liberals, U.S. Maoists and other counterrevolutionary groupings have redoubled their subversive activities against the Republican system. There isn't a day when these followers of Brzezinski's line, by creating chaos in this or that part of the country, do not inflict blows on the gains of the revolution. Bani-Sadr, despite the repetitive recommendations and warnings of the imam and the decisions of the three-man committee for resolving differences, is still inflicting blows to the revolution and its gains, hand in hand with the compromising liberals and other U.S. groups. Bani-Sadr, by strengthening the activities of the compromising, road-roller liberals against the Republican system of our homeland, plays an extremely dangerous and harmful role that has aroused the concern of the true followers of the revolution. Following the beginning of the war imposed by world-devouring U.S. imperialism on our homeland, some people thought that the differences existing among the president of the country, the majority of the Majlis representatives and the government would be put aside for the duration of the war and that they would exert all their efforts to secure a quick victory over the aggressive enemy. But, unfortunately, this was not the case.

From the beginning of the appearance of the differences, the imam called on all sides for sincere and brotherly cooperation. A few months ago, the imam was obliged to declare that if the differences did not end, he would feel the responsibility to take back what he had given. This recommendation of the imam was not heeded either and, especially following the bloody incident at the university last February, convulsions acquired an unprecedented strength. The imam's decision to dismiss Bani-Sadr as commander in chief of the armed forces was his first response to these creators of convulsion. The obvious thing is that if these followers of Brzezinski's line are not treated in a decisive and revolutionary way, the Republican system of our homeland will be confronted with greater dangers.

NEPAL

THAPA, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

BK161616 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Jun 81

[Text] His majesty the king administered the oath of office to Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in accordance with the constitution of Nepal at a special function held at the Narayanhiti Royal Palace this morning.

As commanded by his majesty the king, Prime Minister Thapa then administered the oath of office to Ministers Nain Bahadur Swanr, Nava Raj Subedi, Lal Bahadur Khadayat, Bala Ram Ghartinagar, Ramananda Prashad Yadav, Kashi Nath Gautam, Narayan Dutta Bhatta, and Yadav Prashad Pant, and Ministers of State Hari Bahadur Thapa (Chetri), Phim Prashad Gauchan, Drona Shamshere Rana, Bhadra Kumari Ghale, Fatte Singh Tharu and Bishnu Manden, in the presence of his majesty the king.

Thapa also administered the oath of office to Assistant Ministers Dhyan Hahadur Rai, Nara Bahadur Gurung, Narayan Malla, Moti Prashad Pahari, Deep Bahadur Singh, Som Nath Banstola, (Rajendra Pratap Shah), Krishna Charan Shrestha, Badri Prashad Mandal, Deepak Bohra, Keshar Bahadur Bista and Tilak Bahadur (Medi).

Thapa Holds Press Conference

BK171640 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa has said that the national referendum, the constitutional amendments and the general election, concluded on the basis of adult franchise, have solved the country's political problems and therefore the new Council of Ministers is committed to deal with the economic issues besetting the nation.

Addressing a crowded press conference attended both by the national and foreign journalists in Katmandu today, Thapa noted that on the domestic front the government puts its emphasis and work for the promotion of unity among the panchas.

Thapa remarked that his majesty's government would make all efforts to bring those staying out of the national mainstream fast into it. However, he said that all tendencies toward disruption of the national mainstream and attempts to raise obstacles in the process of integration would be rooted out. The government, he continued, will operate under the policy which keeps the king in the highest esteem and the people under affectionate care.

The rime minister said that his majesty's government will [word indistinct] their determination for the maintenance of law and order so as to overcome economic problems facing the country. Noting that a considerable amount of the time since the national referendum had to be devoted to solving political problems, Thapa said that more time will now be devoted and more programs implemented in the economic interest of the country. Throwing light on different aspects of such programs, Thapa said that emphasis would be laid on boosting production in the agricultural and industrial fronts.

The prime minister said that steps would be taken to check galloping inflation by boosting industrial production on the one hand and on the other by checking the tendencies of creating artificial shortages with an intention to making undue profits. He added that undesired antisocial activities aimed at creating a situation of acute shortage in the market would not be tolerated in the future.

Stating that the Commerce and Supplies Ministry has been established to improve the supply situation in the country, Thapa said that the Industry Ministry has been separated with a view to giving the industrial sector a shot in the arm. Noting that industries would be expanded to create more job opportunities, Thapa said that his majesty's government would make all efforts to check corruption at various levels.

The prime minister said that Nepal's nonaligned foreign policy was being successfully conducted under the supreme leadership of his majesty the king.

Prime Minister Thapa made it clear that the country's nonaligned foreign policy, based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence and the UN Charter, would be pursued with firmness. The friendly and close relations with India and China would be strengthened further, he said, adding that the ties of cooperation with other countries, with other neighboring countries, will also be consolidated in the days ahead.

Asked about the tripartite proposal put forward by Bangladesh concerning the sharing of the Ganges Waters, Prime Minister Thapa, who also holds the foreign portfolio, said if both India and Bangladesh jointly requested Nepal to be in the tripartite agreement, due consideration would be given to such an initiative. Stating that efforts to forge regional cooperation will be continued, he said the government would also make every effort in enlisting firm support from as many as countries as possible to Nepal's proposal that she be declared a zone of peace.

SRI LANKA

PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA TO VISIT 30 JUN

BK181138 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 81

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Huang Hua will arrive in the island on the 30th of this month at the invitation of Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed. Huang Hua will call on the president, the prime minister and senior government officials. He will be accompanied by his wife, a director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and several other senior officials from the ministry. The delegation will be in the island until 5 July.

TULF WINS ALL 10 SEATS IN JAFFNA ELECTION

BK171059 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 81

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] has won all 10 seats in the Jaffna Development Council according to results of the 4 June election announced yesterday. Council chairman will be (Subramanium Natarajan).

The TULF polled 263,369 votes, the United National Party received 23,302 votes and the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress 21,682 votes. The Independent Group I polled a little over 4,000 and Group II some 3,400.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1708 GMT on 16 June says that "the announcing of the Jaffna election results completes the elections to the 24 district development councils held on June 4. The UNP has gained control of 20 councils while the TULF dominates four, all in the northern province."]